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MONTANA'S HIGH RANK FOR VOLUNTEERISM NO SURPRISE TO SOCIETY

The recent headlines in the Independent Record that proclaimed Montana as the seventh highest ranking state in the nation for volunteerism came as no surprise to the Friends of the Montana Historical Society.

On Wednesday the Friends presented a symbolic check for \$100,000 to Society Director Richard Sims representing the amount of hours at \$10 an hour they donated to the Society over the past year.

"We are extremely proud of our volunteers and the time and effort they donate to the history of Montana," Sims said. "With their support, we are able to stretch our resources to provide the best service we can to the people of the state."

The Friends have 125 members, who provided more than 10,000 hours of work to the Society in everything from hosting and providing food for events, student tours, working with artifacts and other collections, clerical work, right down to addressing envelopes for Society mailings and pounding nails for exhibits.

This is the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Friends group, and Society staff thanked the volunteers with an Appreciation Luncheon.

"We can not thank theses volunteers enough," Society Volunteer Coordinator Delight Sullivan said. "They not only help us serve the people of Montana, they also are a constant source of inspiration to all of us. We really are like family."

Here are the volunteers honored Thursday for their service:

Five years: Win Beaver, Esther Fuehrer, Jo Ann Roullier, Jeanne Powell, Marion Pope, Verna Stoneberg, Al Stoner, Helen White

10 years: Marilyn Tutwiler, Caitlin Worthen, Jesse Worthen

18 years: Joyce Vashro

19 years: Mary Hunt

20 years: Carolyn Cain

21 years: Mary Brewer

23 years: Doris Hitt

25 years: Elizabeth Walsh

27 years: Muriel Wild, Betty Jones

29 years: Denise Pennington

35 years: Mary Hanson